What is claimed is:

1. A method selected from the following group:

(i) a method of inhibiting the oligomerization of procaspase-1, comprising inhibiting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1,

(ii) a method of inhibiting the activation of procaspase-1, comprising inhibiting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1, and

(iii) a method of inhibiting the production of caspase-1, comprising inhibiting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

2. A method of preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, comprising inhibiting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

3. A method of preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, comprising using at least one compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

4. The method of preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the inflammatory disease is sepsis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease or rheumatic disorder.

5. A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1, comprising contacting NOD2 and/or procaspase-1 with a compound under conditions that allow for the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1, employing a system using a signal and/or marker capable of the detecting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1; and detecting the presence or absence and/or change of the signal and/or marker to determine whether the compound inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

6. An agent selected from the following group:

(i) an agent for inhibiting the oligomerization of procaspase-1, which inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1,

(ii) an agent for inhibiting the activation of procaspase-1, which inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1, and

(iii) an agent for inhibiting the production of caspase-1, which inhibits the binding of NOD2 to

procaspase-1.

7. An agent selected from the following group:

(i) an agent for inhibiting the oligomerization of procaspase-1, comprising at least one compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1,

(ii) an agent for inhibiting the activation of procaspase-1, comprising at least one compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1, and

(iii) an agent for inhibiting the production of caspase-1, comprising at least one compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

8. An agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, which inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

9. An agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, comprising at least one compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

10. An agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, comprising the agent according to claim 6 or claim 7.

11. The agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease according to claims 8 or 9, wherein the inflammatory disease is sepsis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease or rheumatic disorder.

12. An agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease, which inhibits the oligomerization of procaspase-1 by inhibiting the binding of NOD2 to procaspase-1.

13. The agent for preventing and/or treating an inflammatory disease according to claim 12, wherein the inflammatory disease is sepsis, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease or rheumatic disorder.

14. A reagent kit for use in the method according to claim 5, comprising at least one selected from NOD2, a polynucleotide encoding NOD2, a vector comprising the polynucleotide and a transformant comprising the vector; and at least one selected from procaspase-1, a polynucleotide encoding procaspase-1, a vector comprising the polynucleotide and a transformant comprising the vector.

15. (added) A method of identifying a compound that inhibits the binding of NOD2 to a procaspase-1 variant which is a protein shown by the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4 in the Sequencing Listing but has a substitution of the position at 285 of the amino acid sequence with alanine, comprising contacting NOD2 and/or the variant with a compound under conditions that allow for the binding of NOD2 to the variant, employing a system using a signal and/or a marker capable of detecting the binding of NOD2 to the variant, and detecting the presence or absence and/or the change of the signal and/or the marker to determine whether the compound inhibits the binding of NOD2 to the variant.